

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A video telecommunication system comprising:

a plurality of video transmission apparatuses, each of which is provided with a camera,

a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each of the plurality of cameras, and

a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, wherein said video telecommunication system further comprises

a video information describing unit sending both a switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras to the plurality of video transmission apparatuses, ~~simultaneously sending~~ and character information describing the video information of the from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command~~ simultaneously, and making so as to make the monitor display the video information and combined with the character information.

2. (previously presented) A video telecommunication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said video information describing unit sends said switch command via the network to the plurality of video transmission apparatuses and sends the character information via a control line to the video reception apparatus.

3. (previously presented) A video telecommunication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the video information describing unit sends both the switch command and the character information via the network to the plurality of video transmission apparatuses which extracts the character information therefrom and multiplexes the extracted character information and the video information sends the same to the video reception apparatus.

B) 4. (currently amended) A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system, comprising: a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each of which wherein each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is provided with a camera; and the video telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

a character information combining unit for receiving both a switch command and character information from a video information describing unit which sends both the switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, simultaneously sends and character information describing the video information of the from the specified camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information and combined with the character information, and

for combining the character information extracted from there with the video information of the camera and outputting the result to the monitor side.

5. (currently amended) A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said character information combining unit inserts the combined video information and character information together in a data frame and outputs the result to the monitor side.-

6. (original) A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the data frame is a data frame formed based on the MPEG and holds the video information and character information in a user data region of the data frame.

7. (original) A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the data frame is a data frame formed based on the MPEG and holds the character information in a private data region of the data frame.

8. (currently amended) A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system, wherein each of the comprising: a plurality of video transmission apparatuses ~~each of which~~ is provided with a camera, and the video telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of

video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

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a video/character information multiplexing unit for receiving a switch command and its character information from a video information describing unit which sends both the switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, ~~simultaneously sends~~ and character information describing the video information ~~of the~~ from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command, and makes~~ simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information ~~and~~ combined with the character information, and for multiplexing the character information extracted from there with the video information of the camera and outputting the result to the monitor side and

a character information setting unit for inputting the character information to the ~~character/video~~ video/character information multiplexing unit in synchronization so that the switched video information and character information come together.

9. (currently amended) A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system ~~comprising: a~~ wherein each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses ~~each of which~~ is provided with a camera; and the video telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

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a character information transmitting unit for receiving through a video path and switch control path on the network a switch command and character information from a video information describing unit which sends both the switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, ~~simultaneously sends~~ and character information describing the video information ~~of the~~ from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command, and makes~~ simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information ~~and~~ combined with the character information, and for outputting the character information extracted from the switch control path, separate from the video information of the camera, through the switch control path, to the monitor side.

10. **(original)** A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a character information alteration unit for altering the character information received from the video information describing unit to character information unique to the camera side.

11. **(currently amended)** A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system comprising: a wherein each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses each of which is provided with a camera; and the video telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

a display combining unit for receiving a switch command and character information from a video information describing unit which sends both the switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, ~~simultaneously sends and~~ character information describing the video information ~~of the~~ from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command, and makes~~ simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information ~~and~~ combine with the character information, and for combining the character information extracted from there with the video information of the specified camera by a signal format able to be displayed as it is on the monitor.

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12. **(original)** A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the display combining unit is comprised of a superimpose generator.

13. **(previously presented)** A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a condition notifying unit for notifying the monitor side of condition information expressing the working condition of each camera.

14. **(original)** A video transmission apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein the information from the condition notifying unit is input to the character information combining unit.

15. **(currently amended)** A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system ~~comprising a~~ wherein each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses ~~each of which~~ is provided with a camera, and the video

telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

a decoding unit for converting video information sent from the plurality of cameras to analog video information,

a character information converting unit for receiving a switch command from a video information describing unit which sends both the switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, ~~simultaneously sends~~ and character information describing the video information ~~of the~~ from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command, and makes~~ simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information ~~and~~ combined with the character information, and for converting a digital code forming the character information to analog character information, and

a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character information converting unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

16. (original) A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the display combining unit is comprised of a superimpose generator.

17. (currently amended) A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system comprising a wherein each of the plurality of video

transmission apparatuses ~~each of which~~ is provided with a camera; and the video telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

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a character information separating unit for receiving once at the camera side character information from a video information describing unit which sends both a switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, ~~simultaneously sends and~~ character information describing the video information ~~of the~~ from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command, and makes~~ simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information ~~and~~ combined with the character information, and for receiving the character information together with the video information of the camera side, then separating it and

a decoding unit for converting the received video information to analog video information and

combining the character information from the character information separating unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

18. (currently amended) A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system comprising: a wherein each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses ~~each of which~~ is provided with a camera; and the video

telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

B) a character/video separating unit for receiving once at the camera side character information from a video information describing unit which sends both a switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras, ~~simultaneously sends and~~ character information describing the video information ~~of the~~ from the specified camera ~~in accordance with the switch command, and makes~~ simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information ~~and~~ combined with the character information, and for receiving the video information and the character information from the camera side, then separating the character information,

a decoding unit for converting video information from the character/video separating unit to analog video information, and

a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character/video separating unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

19. (original) A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 18, wherein the display combining unit is comprised of a superimpose generator.

20. (currently amended) A plurality of video transmission apparatuses used in a video telecommunication system comprising: a wherein each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses each of which is provided with a camera; and the video telecommunication system further includes a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center and provided with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera, and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus, each video transmission apparatus further comprising:

B¹ a character information receiver unit for receiving, through a switch control path on the network, character information from a video information describing unit which sends both a switch command for specifying one of the plurality of cameras; simultaneously-sends and character information describing the video information of the from the specified camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes simultaneously, so as to make the monitor display the video information and combined with the character information,

a decoding unit for converting the video information received through the video path on the network to analog video information, and

a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character information receiver unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor.

21. **(original)** A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 17, further comprising a character information alteration unit for altering the received character information to character information unique to the monitor side.

22. **(original)** A video reception apparatus as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a character information alteration unit for altering the received character information to character information unique to the monitor side.
